

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 00743 01 OF 02 272148Z

67

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ARA-10 EA-09 SSM-05 SAB-01 SAM-01

/122 W

----- 046324

P 272018Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6052

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0743

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SS

SUBJ: SYG'S REMARKS AT PRESS CONFERENCE: SPANISH SAHARA

REF: USUN 0730

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SYG'S REMARKS CONCERNING SPANISH
SAHARA AT HIS FEBRUARY 26 PRESS BRIEFING:

QUOTE:

BEGIN TEXT.

TO ASK THE FIRST QUESTION, COULD YOU SUM UP FOR US THE
RESULTS OF YOUR CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SITUATION
IN WESTERN SAHARA, WHICH PRESUMABLY IS REACHING A CRITICAL
POINT WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SPANISH ADMINISTRATION?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I CAN INFORM YOU THAT I HAVE RECEIVED
THIS MORNING A LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 00743 01 OF 02 272148Z

OF SPAIN IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SPANISH

ADMINISTRATION FROM WESTERN SAHARA AS FROM TODAY.
THE LETTER STATES ALSO THAT SPAIN DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF
RESPONSIBLE ANY LONGER FOR ANYTHING WHICH HAPPENS IN THAT
TERRITORY. THIS LETTER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC, AND I THEREFORE
DO NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO ELABORATE ON IT NOW.

AS YOU HAVE NO DOUBT HEARD, I WAS INVITED BY MOROCCO
AND, A DAY LATER, BY MAURITANIA, TO SEND AN OBSERVER TO
AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DJEMA'A, THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF WESTERN SAHARA, BEING HELD TODAY. THE MOROCCAN
INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO ME TWO DAYS AGO. I CHECKED
WITH THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES AND LEARNED THAT THEY
WERE NOT AWARE THAT THIS EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DJEMA'S
WOULD BE HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY -- THAT IS, TODAY. I
THEREFORE REPLIED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF MOROCCO
THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SINCE SPAIN -- WHICH WAS STILL
THE ADMINISTERING POWER AND A MEMBER OF THE TRIPARTITE
ADMINISTRATION -- WAS NOT AWARE OF THE DECISION TO CONVENE
THE DJEMA'S, I SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF SENDING AN OBSERVER
TO THE MEETING IN QUESTION.

YESTERDAY, I RECEIVED A MEMORANDUM FROM SPAIN IN WHICH IT
INFORMED ME OF ITS INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM WESTERN
SAHARA TODAY, 26 FEBRUARY. THAT MEMORANDUM READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 2
OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES SIGNED IN MADRID ON 14
NOVEMBER 1975, IN WHICH IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE SPANISH
PRESENCE IN THE TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA WOULD BE
DEFINITELY TERMINATED BY 28 FEBRUARY 1976 AT THE LATEST,
HAS DECIDED THAT IT WILL DEFINITELY TERMINATE ITS PRESENCE
IN THE TERRITORY TOMORROW, 26 FEBRUARY. I SHALL TRANSMIT
TO YOU IN DUE COURSE THE APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION
INFORMING YOU OF THE TERMINATION OF THE SPANISH PRESENCE
IN WESTERN SAHARA."

THE COMMUNICATION REFERRED TO ARRIVED THIS MORNING, AFTER
A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR,
AND IT IS HERE IN MY FILES. THE MEMORANDUM FROM SPAIN
GOES ON TO SAY:
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 00743 01 OF 02 272148Z

"IN THIS CONNEXION, A MEETING OF THE DJEMA'A HAS BEEN CONVENED,
AT WHICH THE PRESENT SPANISH GOVERNOR, WHO IS ACTING AS A
MEMBER OF THE TRIPARTITE ADMINISTRATION, WILL INFORM
THE DJEMA'A OF THIS DECISION OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT."

"THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE POPULAR CONSULTATION
PROVIDED FOR IN THE MADRID AGREEMENT OF 14 NOVEMBER 1975

AND IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3458 B (XXX), UNLESS THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS ARE MET, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE PRESENCE OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS APPOINTED BY YOU IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED RESOLUTION.

"MY GOVERNMENT IS TODAY TRANSMITTING TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA THE ABOVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING OF THE DJEMA'A."

I THINK IT WILL BE BEST FOR ME TO GIVE YOU THE THRUST OF MY REPLY TO THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, BECAUSE THAT WILL BEST SHOW MY ATTITUDE TO THIS PROBLEM. I DO NOT THINK I SHOULD READ OUT THE WHOLE LETTER, BUT I ANSWERED BY MAKING REFERENCE TO OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 8 OF RESOLUTION A, WHICH FIRST REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN, AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER,

"TO TAKE IMMEDIATELY ALL NECESSARY MEASURES IN CONSULTATION WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND INTERESTED, SO THAT ALL SAHARANS ... MAY EXERCISE FULLY AND FREELY, UNDER UNITED NATIONS SUPERVISION" -- "SUPERVISION", NOT "OBSERVATION" -- "THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION."

AND THEN, AFTER THAT PARAGRAPH, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS REQUESTED

"IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN, AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER, AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE BEGIN BRACKETS ON DECOLONIZATION END BRACKETS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPERVISION -- I MUST STRESS "SUPERVISION, BECAUSE THE INVITATION WAS FOR ME TO SEND AN OBSERVER -- "OF THE ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 7 ABOVE".
(GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3458 (XXX) A)
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 USUN N 00743 01 OF 02 272148Z

FURTHER, IN MY ANSWER TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT I REFERRED TO OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 4 OF RESOLUTION B, WHICH SAYS:

"REQUESTS THE INTEIIM ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE SAHARAN POPULATIONS ORIGINATING IN THE TERRITORY WILL BE ABLE TO EXERCISE THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH FREE CONSULTATIONS ORGANIZED" -- I REPEAT: "ORGANIZED" -- "WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL."
(GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3458 (XXX) B)

WHAT I WAS BEING ASKED TO DO WAS TO SEND AN OBSERVER TO TAKE NOTE OF THE DECISION OF DJEMA'A, AS IT WAS PUT IN

YESTERDAY'S LETTER FROM MAURITANIA. THIS IS THE REQUEST
I RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MAURITANIAN.

"... VOUS INVITER A DESIGNER UN REPRESENTANT DE L'ORGANISATION
QUI ASSISTERA A CETTE REUNION -- DE LA DJEMA'A --
ET QUI PRENDRA EVENTUELLEMENT NOTE DES DECISIONS QUI Y
SERONT PRISES".

WELL, THIS DOES NOT SPEAK OF ORGANIZING WITH THE ASSISTANCE
OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS APPOINTED BY
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL -- A SORT OF REFERENDUM OR CONSULTATION,
WHATEVER YOU MAY CALL IT. ALL I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DO IS
TO SEND AN OBSERVER JUST TO TAKE NOTE OF WHAT THE DJEMA'A
IS DECIDING. IT WAS IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT THAT
I CONCLUDED THAT I SHOULD NOT SEND A REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS -- BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN
LINE WITH THE EXISTING RESOLUTIONS.

I THEREFORE ENDED THE LETTER TO THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR
BY SAYING:

"IT IS EVIDENT FROM THE PARAGRAPHS CITED ABOVE THAT NEITHER
THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN, AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER, NOR
THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATION, OF WHICH SPAIN IS A MEMBER,
HAS TAKEN THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THE EXERCISE
OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE POPULATIONS OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 USUN N 00743 01 OF 02 272148Z

WESTERN SAHARA. ACCORDINGLY, EVEN IF TIME" --

DO NOT FORGET THAT I RECEIVED THIS REQUEST TO SEND AN
OBSERVER TWO DAYS AGO FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM MOROCCO
AND ONLY YESTERDAY FROM MAURITANIA --

"HAD PERMITTED, AND THE NECESSARY CLARIFICATIONS HAD
BEEN FURNISHED REGARDING THE MEETING OF THE DJEMA'A
OF WHICH YOU INFORMED ME YESTERDAY THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT
WAS NOT AWARE, THE PRESENCE AT THE MEETING OF A REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS APPOINTED BY ME WOULD NOT BY ITSELF
CONSTITUTE FULFILMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS
REFERRED TO ABOVE."

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 00743 02 OF 02 272201Z

67

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ARA-10 EA-09 SSM-05 SAB-01 SAM-01

/122 W

----- 046629

P 272018Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6053

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0743

I THINK BY QUOTING SOME OF THE PARAGRAPHS OF MY RESPONSE TO THIS SUGGESTION I HAVE GIVEN YOU MY POSITION. THERE WAS NO WAY OF ACTING DIFFERENTLY IF I WANT TO STICK TO THE EXISTING RESOLUTIONS WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT WE HAD TWO RESOLUTIONS AND THAT THOSE TWO RESOLUTIONS WERE CONTRADOCTORY IN A NUMBER OF ASPECTS. BUT THEY HAD ONE ELEMENT IN COMMON -- NAMELY, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU IF YOU REGARD WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY, THE 26TH, IN THE DJEMA'A AND THE LETTER YOU RECEIVED FROM SPAIN AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I THINK I SHOULD REFER TO THE SPANISH NOTE WHICH STATES THAT SPAIN WILL NOT CONSIDER THE MEETING OF THE DJEMA'A AS THE EXPRESSION OF POPULAR CONSULTATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA AS LONG AS THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS ARE NOT FULFILLED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 00743 02 OF 02 272201Z

QUESTION: IN THE LIGHT OF LAST YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON THE SAHARA, DO YOU SHARE THE SPANISH VIEW THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE ANY MORE FOR THIS TERRITORY

FROM TOMORROW ON?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: AS I SAID, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED ME TWO DAYS AGO AND HAS CONFORMED IT TODAY THAT FROM TODAY ON IT DOES NOT FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WESTERN SAHARA, BUT IT MAINTAINS IT ADHERENCE TO THE MADRID AGREEMENT, SIGNED LAST NOVEMBER, IN WHICH THE PROCEDURE FOR POPULAR CONSULTATION WAS FORSEEN. AS I SAID A FEW MOMENTS AGO, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE MEETING OF THE DJEMA'A TODAY AS THAT EXPRESSION OF POPULAR CONSULTATION.

QUESTION: WHTER DOES THIS LEAVE THE RYDBECK MISSION, WHICH I UNDERSTAND HAS NOT BEEN TERMINATED?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: THAT IS CORRECT. THE RYDBECK MISSION HAS NOT BEEN TERMINATED. THE MISSION WAS AND STILL IS AN EXPLORATORY ONE TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP THE PARTIES OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULTIES. I CONSIDER IT OUR DUTY IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP ALL PARTIES TO OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULTIES AND TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF THE RYDBECK MISSION, THE FIRST PHASE OF WHICH WAS, OF COURSE, TO GO TO THE WESTERN SAHARA TO CHECK THE SITUATION ON THE SPOT. WE WILL SEE IN WHAT WAY WE CAN CONTINUE THIS MISSION, BECAUSE I CAN BERY WELL IMAGINE THAT THE PARTIES INVOLVED ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING A REASONABLE WAY OUT OF THE ACTUAL SITUATION.

QUESTION: DID THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT STATE WHY IT IS WITHDRAWING FROM THE SAHARA AHEAD OF TIME?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT EXACTLY STATE THE REASON, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE IN CONNEXION WITH THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DJEMA'A.

QUESTION: DID I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY, MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, TO SAY THAT THE COMMUNICATION YOU RECEIVED FROM UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 00743 02 OF 02 272201Z

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT STATED THAT IT DOES NOT CONSIDER ANY DECISION BY THE DJEMAA AS THE ACT OF FREE DETERMINATION THAT IS CALLED FOR IN THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I CAN ONLY QUOTE AGAIN WHAT THE MEMORANDUM OF SPAIN, WHICH WAS HANDED TO ME BY AMBASSADOR DE PINIES YESTERDAY, SAYS:

"THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE POPULAR CONSULTATION PROVIDED FOR IN THE MADRID AGREEMENT OF 14 NOVEMBER 1975

-, \$ 8, & 3, 34-) - 3.?) 6 43 9) 7589, 3458 B (XXX), UNLESS
THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS ARE MET, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR
THE PRESENCE OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
APPOINTED BY YOU IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ABOVE-
MENTIONED RESOLUTION".

I HAVE HOLD YOU WHY I HAVE NOT SENT A REPRESENTATIVE --
THAT IS, BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE HAD ONLY THE CHARACTER OF
AN OBSERVER WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO ASSIST IN
ORGANIZING A REFERENDUM OR A PROCESS OF CONSULTATION, WHATEVER
WE CALL IT, AND I MUST LEAVE IT TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT
TO INTERPRET THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE: "UNLESS THE NECESSARY
CONDITIONS ARE MET".

QUESTION: FROM THE UNITED NATIONS POINT OF VIEW, DOES SPAIN
FEEL THAT DJEMAA IS TAKING POWER?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I HAVE ANSWERED THAT QUESTION ALREADY.
I AM SORRY; I CANNOT REPEAT MY ANSWERS.

QUESTION: I SHOULD LIKE TO COME BACK TO THE WESTERN SAHARA
QUESTION. IN THE TWO RESOLUTIONS PASSED LAST DECEMBER THERE
ARE REFERENCES TO THE FREE CONSULTATIONS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE
THE TRIPARTITE ADMINISTRATION DISSOLVES.
HAS ANY OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED GIVEN YOU ANY REASON
WHY THE REFERENDUM OR THE FREE CONSULTATIONS HAVE NOT TAKEN
PLACE?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN ME THIS INFORMATION,
ALTHOUGH SPAIN, AS YOU KNOW, HAS STATED THAT IT DOES
NOT CONSIDER THE MEETING OF THE DJEMAA TAKING PLACE TODAY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 USUN N 00743 02 OF 02 272201Z

AS CONSTITUTING THE POPULAR CONSULTATION PROVIDED
FOR IN THE MADRID AGREEMENT. SO I DO NOT HAVE ANY EXPLANATION
IN THIS REGARD, BUT AMBASSADOR RYDBECK INFORMED ME --
AND I CAN SAY THIS BECAUSE HE HAS MADE IT KNOWN PUBLICLY --
THAT, IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR MILITARY AND SECURITY
REASONS HE DOES NOT CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS
OF THIS KIND.

END TEXT.
UNQUOTE.
BENNETT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760075-0233
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976023/aaaaabug.tel
Line Count: 379
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYG'S REMARKS AT PRESS CONFERENCE: SPANISH SAHARA
TAGS: PFOR, SS, MR, AG, UN, (LUNS, JOSEPH M A H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006